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the undiscovered, uncertain whether you have found all that can be found. No better tests are yet known of the quality of microscope lenses than the diatoms and Nobert's lines. To know that you have obtained the best results in your own specialties you must know what your instruments can do on known objects; to 'increase knowledge' in your own departments, you must use the best instruments and the highest powers the skill of the optician can produce. Science cannot be much advanced by the use of lenses of twenty years ago."

METHODS OF STUDY IN INFUSORIA.—An abstract of an extremely suggestive paper relative to this subject is given under "Reviews" in this number of the NATURALIST.

CORRECTION TO NOTE ON APERTURE.—"Improved assumption" p. 567, line 1, should have been printed "unproved assumption."

NOTES.

THE Kansas Academy of Science held its sixth annual meeting at Lawrence, Kansas, on Sept 11 and 12. This Academy holds its annual meeting of two or three days duration in different places in the state. Papers are read on various subjects, and considerable work is done for the encouragement of science throughout Kansas. Quite a number of papers were read, and a special address was delivered which was anti-Darwinian in character. Among the papers falling in our sphere for notice, was one by Prof. F. H. Snow on "Injurious Insects," and one by Prof. B. F. Mudge on the "Discovery of Fossil Footprints in Osage County," of "middle permian" age. Several hundred tracks were collected and will be sent to Prof. Marsh at New Haven. Another paper by Prof. Mudge was on the "Mound Builders." The evidences of this ancient race in Kansas consisted in finding deposits of pottery, indicating ancient villages, but we do not note anything in the description of the remains that prove them to be those of mound builders any more than of Indians of more recent date. No mounds are mentioned, and, until the pottery found has been carefully compared with that unquestionably made by the mound builders and the Indians, the particular race whose remains are described must be left in doubt. The following is the most interesting part of the paper as reported:—

"But the most important locality seen by us in Kansas lies not far from Asher creek, on the southwesterly side of the Solomon river, in Cloud county. The locality is on a rolling prairie, just above the river bottom, which is here quite narrow. The most marked feature of this village is the pottery, where their domestic articles were manufactured. It covers an area of from one-fourth to half an acre, rising irregularly at the highest point about two feet above the level of the adjoining prairie, and is composed to a great extent of the materials and debris from the old workshops. In it we found a considerable quantity of the clay, dug from the banks of an adjoining ravine, which had never been moulded; and some partly moulded and sometimes mixed with straw, probably to be used in the coarsest articles. Also fragments from what appeared to be the ovens in which the pottery had been baked. These fragments showed marks of fire, and were too clumsy and coarse to have been part of any household utensils, and were mostly in a heap in the highest and central part of the village. The extent of the village was obscure, as the rank grass had covered the ground for long ages and nearly obliterated all traces of what once existed."

The next meeting will be held at Topeka, in Sept., 1874. Prof. Snow was elected president, Prof. Fraser retiring from the chair.

The first award of the Grand Walker prize of $1,000 was voted by the Council of the Boston Society of Natural History, on Oct. 1, to Mr. Alexander Agassiz of Cambridge, for investigations on the embryology, structure and geographical distribution of the Radiates, and especially on the Echinoderms, and the publication of the results as embodied in his recent work.

The Annual Walker prize, for 1873, of $60, was, at the same meeting, awarded to A. S. Packard, Jr., for his essay on the development of the common house fly.

A very deserving institution has recently been established in Cincinnati, under the title of the Cincinnati Acclimatization Society, its object being to effect the introduction of such foreign birds as are worthy of note for their song or their services to the farmer or horticulturist. The society announces that during last spring it expended $5,000 in introducing fifteen additional species of birds, and that it has already successfully accomplished the acclimatization of the European skylark, which is stated to be now a prominent feature of the summer landscape in the vicinity of Cincinnati. Among the species which it is proposed to introduce is the European titmouse, considered abroad as one of the most successful foes of insects injurious to vegetation.—*Nature.*

Professor Marsh's exploring party returned to Fort Bridger, Wyoming, Sept. 5th, after a most successful trip of six weeks, among the Eocene fossils of the Uintah mountain region. Many interesting discoveries were made, especially of new mammals, birds and reptiles. The party are now at work in Oregon, and will return east in December.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

C. M., Mass.—The objects sent are an early and peculiar stage of development of a fresh water polyzoon. They are popularly labelled "eggs" of *Cristatella*, but more accurately statoblasts or pseud-ova.—R. H W.

BOOKS RECEIVED.

Berliner Entomologischer Zeitschrift. Yahrgang 1-10. 8vo. 21 pamphs. Berlin, 1857-1866.

The Principle of the Least Action in Nature, illustrated by Animal Mechanics. By Samuel Houghton. 8vo. pp. 48. London, 1871.

La Vie au Point de Vue Physique, ou Physiogenie Philosophique. By Charles Girard. 12mo. pp. 70. Paris, 1870.

Sixth Annual Report of the U. S. Geological Survey of the Territories, embracing portions of Montana, Idaho, Wyoming and Utah; being a report of progress of the year 1872. By F. V. Hayden. 8vo. pp. 844. Washington, 1873.

Report of the Commissioner of Education for the year 1872. Cloth 8vo. pp. 1018. Washington, 1873.

Proceedings of the Lyceum of Natural History in the city of New York. Second Series. Jan. 3-March 3, 1873. 8vo. pp. 32. New York, 1873.

Proceedings of the Trustees of the Peabody Educational Fund at their Annual Meeting, New York, July 16, 1873. 8vo. pp. 61. Cambridge, 1873.

Meteorological Observations, during the year 1872, *in Utah, Idaho and Montana.* 8vo. pp. 120. Washington, 1873.

A Catalogue of the Shell Bearing Mollusca of Rhode Island. By Horace F. Carpenter. 4to. pp. 4. 1873.

Circulars of Information of the Bureau of Education. Nos. 1 and 2. 8vo. Washington, 1873.

The Mechanical Equivalent of Heat a Delusion. By A. Arnold. Sept., 1873.

The Tourmaline. By A. C. Hamlin. Cloth 8vo. pp. 107. With 5 colored plates. Boston, 1873.

The Entities and Thoughts on Development and the Origin of Species. By C. G. Forshey. 8vo. pp. 9. New Orleans, 1873.

Tidsskrift for Populære Fremstillinger af Naturwidenskaben. 8vo. Fjerde Række. Femte Binds. Fjerde Hefte. Kjobenhavn, 1873.

Twenty-first Annual Report of the Regents of the University of the State of New York on the Condition of the State Cabinet of Natural History. 8vo. pp. 190. With 13 plates. Albany, 1871.

Twenty-second Annual Report of the Regents of the University of the State of New York on the Condition of the State Cabinet of Natural History. 8vo. pp. 113. With map. Albany, 1869.

Fifty-fifth Annual Report of the Trustees of the New York State Library. 8vo. pp. 192. Albany, 1873.

Twenty-fourth Annual Report on the New York State Museum of Natural History by the Regents of the University of the State of New York. Cloth 8vo. pp 232. With 8 plates. Albany, 1872.

Annals of the Dudley Observatory. Vol. i. 8vo. pp. 319. Albany, 1866. Vol. ii. Cloth 8vo. pp. 367. With 36 diagrams. Albany, 1871.

Results of a Series of Meteorological Observations, made under instructions from the Regents of the University at sundry Stations in the State of New York. Second Series. From 1850 *to* 1853, *inclusive; with records of rain-fall and other phenomena, to* 1871, *inclusive.* Prepared from the original returns by Franklin B. Hough. Cloth 4to. pp. 402. Albany, 1872.

Description of a Species of Caligulus, C. Americanus. By Charles Pickering and James D. Dana. (From Am. Jour. Sci., Vol. xxx, iv, p. 225, 1838.) 8vo. pp. 106. With 3 plates.

Popular Science Monthly. New York, Sept., Oct., 1873.
Revue Scientifique. Paris, Aug. 2 - Sept. 27, 1873.
Field. London, July 26 - Sept. 20, 1873.
Land and Water. London, July 26 - Sept. 20, 1873.
Bulletin of the Torrey Botanical Club. New York, July - Sept., 1873.
The Lens. Chicago, Aug., 1873.
Journal of the Franklin Institute. Philadelphia, Sept., Oct., 1873
The Entomologists' Monthly Magazine. London, Oct., 1873.
Grevillea. London, Oct. 2, 1873.
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Academy. London, Aug. 1 - Oct. 1, 1873.
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The Gardener's Monthly. Philadelphia, Sept., Oct., 1873.
Geological Magazine. London, June - Aug., 1873.
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Annals of the Lyceum of Natural History of New York. March-June, 1873.